products in the world during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the total quantum of agricultural exports is still very less;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and details of the items exported; and

(d) the steps taken to promote agricultural exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India's share in the world trade in agricultural products during the last three years was as under :-

Year	Percentage Share
1992	0.83
1993	1.00
1994	0.85

(Source : FAO Year Book, 1994)

The details for the year 1995 and 1996 are not available.

(b) and (c) India's share in the world trade of agricultural products, except for in the traditional items exported, has been low due to lack of export orientation in domestic production. The domestic production is not fully tuned to the market abroad in terms of quality and packaging. Further, as a policy, exports of items of mass consumption are only permitted in a manner which does not compromise the food security of the country. The agricultural products exported from India include tea, coffee, raw cotton, rice (basmati and non-basmati), wheat, coarse grains, tobacco, spices, cashew, sesame and niger seeds, oil meal extractions, sugar, horticulture and floriculture products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and meat and meat preparations.

(d) Steps taken to enhance export of agricultural and allied products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of minimum export price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, air freight subsidy on export of selected horticultural, floricultural products and fresh vegetables to identified destinations, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

[English]

Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd.

1100. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since rejected the proposal for expansion of a project in respect of Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development Scheme for Coir Workers

1101. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the development schemes proposed to be undertaken by the Government for ensuring the welfare of coir workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : The Coir Board has been implementing various welfare programmes for the benefit of the workers in coir producing States namely : (i) Model Coir Village Scheme; and (ii) Assistance for implementing Coir Workers' Welfare Fund, (A scheme formulated and implemented by Government of Kerala exclusively for Kerala).

Welfare measures under the Model Coir Village Scheme include construction of houses for SC/ST workers, electrification of houses of SC workers, provision of sanitary laterines, smokeless choolas and drinking water, provision of beating sheds and ratt sheds etc.

Government of Kerala is implementing a scheme through the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board which provides assistance towards payment of pension, family pension, financial assistance for permanent or temporary disability, maternity benefit, medical facilities etc. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 160 lakhs to the Coir Board from 1991-92 to 1995-96 under the head "Welfare Scheme". The Coir Board has provided financial assistance under the Model Coir Village Scheme to Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh to the extent of Rs. 20.06 lakhs from 1992-93 to 1995-96.

Economic Reforms

1102. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "States left out to reform process" appearing in the Financial Express dated January 31, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the important observations/ shortcomings pointed out in the report and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of action plan worked out/proposed to cover up deficiencies; and

(d) the details of recommendations made in the report and action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A news item entitled "States Left out of Reforms Process" appeared in the Financial Express dated January 31, 1997. The news-item indicates some of the findings of a report by Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Bombay. As per the report, "the Centre has failed to involve State Governments in the process of economic reforms. The reforms process needs to explicity involve and co-opt the state Governments. The Government must make a commitment to reduce revenue deficits and expand public investment in infrastructure".

(c) and (d) As contrary to the observation made in the report referred above, most of the State Governments have undertaken significant procedural and policy reforms in line with the liberalisation undertaken by the Centre. The States have been encouraging private investment for development of basic infrastructure and management of industrial houses by awarding various fiscal concessions and other facilities. While the incentive package varies from one State to another, depending upon its investment priorities, the package generally includes a investment subsidy, exemption from payment of excise duty by new undertakings, tax concessions to units in small scale and tiny sectors, supply of industrial land under easy conditions, waivers or concessional rates for electricity duty, subsidies on purchase of machinery and other fixed assets, special incentives to industries involved in modernisation, technological upgradation and quality control, upgrading the facilities available at the District Industries Centres (DICs), opening of single window type information dissemination centres and several other measures. In order to support on-going reforms at the State level, Asian Development Bank has extended a loan assistance of US $ 250 million for the Gujarat Public Sector Resource Management Programme.

Patent of Neem and Turmeric by USA

1103. CAPT. JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that globalisation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) framework through GATT/TRIPs has not gone hand in hand with the globalisation of screening for prior knowledge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the USA has exported its IPR regims world-wide but has failed to import full knowledge of the state of art in bio-diversity utilisation in different countries, but grants patent based on existing uses of plant based products such as Neem biopesticide and turmeric for healing wounds; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Novelty with respect to information published in India or elsewhere has been the criterion for grant of patents under the Patents Act, 1970. For the purpose of ascertaining novelty of the invention, patent offices are adequately equipped.

(c) and (d) The grant of patent in USA is also based on similar criterion. However, cases where patents have been granted by patent offices due to lack of information, it is possible to seek re-examination/revocation as has been done by the government recently.

Khadi and Village Industries

1104. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise details of the number of Khadi and village industries Board existing in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government intends to establish a large number of Khadi and Village Industries in the country particularly in Bihar;

(c) whether any review of the existing Khadi and Village Industries has ever been done; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) State-wise details of the Khadi and Village Industries Boards existing in the country at present are given in the attached statement.

(b) It is the endeavour of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote as many viable Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) units as possible all over the country including the State of Bihar. As per the recommendations of the High Power Committee to generate employment of 5.6 million persons in KVI sector by the end of 202 AD, KVIC jointly with Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Institutions and Federation of Institutions, is extending the network of support services in terms of raw materials supplies, marketing support, training programmes, technology improvement, establishment of industrial estate etc. In addition to its normal programme, KVIC has also launched special programmes such as 125 Block Development Programme, District Special Employment Programme and National Programmes in Beekeeping, Handmade Paper and Leather. In Bihar, under the 125 Blocks programme, 11 blocks have been selected and under District Special Employment Programme, 4 districts have been selected for implementation of KVI schemes.

(c) and (d) The KVI programme is reviewed every year during the time of budget discussions with the directly aided institutions as well as State KVI Boards